

THE COUNTY

Figures Given in the L
port of the County

What He Has to Sa
the Third Nation

Standing Committees o
Rooms for the Fro

ordered printed for the use of
The Chairman then announced
THE STANDING COMMITTEES
of the Board for the coming year:
Finance—Fitzgerald, sponsor,
Senne.
Judiciary—Lenzen, Meyer,
City Relations—Boese, Mull
Public Buildings—Burling,
Hofmann, Ayars.

County Attorney Rountree communication asking the legal proceedings against Huck. Mr. Huck, it will be took any stock in Rountree document was referred.

EGAN.

A communication was Egan asking that the Iron House be painted.

Mr. Fitzgerald moved

empowered to have the work done.

Mr. Burling moved as an amendment that the cost of the work be inquiry made by the board of directors to see if the work can be done at a lower cost than the \$25,000. The amendment was adopted and the document was referred to committee.

A communication was received from the county attorney offering to perform the work for \$25,000 or \$20,000.

The following communic
ex-County-Treasurer Huck
CHICAGO, Dec. 10, 1877-
state that a few days before
successor, the present Count
in part payment of my dequo
uer in the Third National
drafts of that bank to the
the Parz National Bank of
these drafts upon the ass

of the bank that was the presentation and immediately to New York for collection, received the Third National Bank Park Bank refused to honor the matter to the office bank, they were cashed shortly be paid, and that at a matter of but a few days until within a day or two with the present Treasurer be paid in time to be admitted in that settlement.

I state these facts with the able time will be allowed me

this indebtedness to the common payment of these drafts to pay my nearest and dearest settlement of the matter.

County-Treasurer McColl following on the same subject Chicago, Dec. 10, 1877.

With regard to taking possession of the Treasurer and County Clerk upon the duties thereof, I on Thursday, the 6th inst. predecessor, turned over to the Treasurer and County Clerk

papers, and since he showed
lacked to be a county collector the way
county Collector the way
which he, L. C. U. I.
me in full; and as
The books showed there
of \$167,874.90, which
me the sum of \$67,874.90.
County Treasurer the sum
I demanded payment, but
me at the time he was
much as his drafts of \$50,
\$100,000 on the First National
had not yet been paid, a
notice in a short time to pay

Except the above, I find in a satisfactory condition.

S. H. McClellan

Both documents were Committee.

The report of the Supreme and referred. The been printed.

A communication was Judge asking that certain his office. Referred.

A communication was rooms at Nos. 10 and 12

A large number of communications were read from the pulpit, all of which were in one from Florence.

A communication was read from the Clerk recommending that the Board of the Hall be disbanded.

A bill of \$8,000 for the purchase of the property of the Emory A. Storrs in the city of New York was read.

Commissioner McCaffrey was present.

The pay-rolls for the
months for the month
sent. An effort was
rules and audit the roll
objected, and they were
ought to have been.

The semi-annual re-
courts and county offi-
read. The substance
cept that of the
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

which showed that a great many inmates in the institution admitted since then, males,—and that there were 192 of whom were males, the greatest number under had been 447, the number of recidivists. I set forth that more or less of prostitution, and resuming the additional wing of sin in the south wing, an old "Ring" and a

the present wing
will accommodate
while the new wing
and would accommo
perintendent asks for
scope to aid in patho
stocking of the path
ment of the amuse
building of a monie
ing alley, and that
be established with
cludes by favorably
plies of the insti

who is not mentioned
Medical Superintendent
the report, for no
making the exception
known as a candidate
place before the he
referred.

THE COM
Ex-County Treas
read and referred.

Balance Dec. 1, 1870
Permitted of County

fees
 Received of Superior
 fees
 Received of County
 Received of Criminal
 fees
 Received of Records
 Received of L. C. H.
 Received of L. C. H.
 Received of J. M. B.
 Received of H. M. B.
 Received of Medical
 Received of Hugh M.
 Received of Clerk of

Received of Francis
Received of Charles
Received of Ness &
Received of Hornum
of old receipt
Received of several
Received of peddler
Apr. 22. 1862

The Tribune.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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This sort of thing might be for Cologne, a city of bad smells, but not for Brussels, which would seriously object to becoming famous as a city of bad smells. If there is anybody out of a job who has ever been to night-school and never attended the Government in an army-cloth contraption he should come forward and take the Belgian mission. Mr. Evans will by this time be thankful for volunteers.

We understand that the movers for a mass-meeting in favor of silver remonetization have secured the Tabernacle for next Thursday evening, and have placed petitions in various accessible places for signatures. Every business man and property-owner who is impressed with the necessity of early action in this matter as the only means of relief for the present financial and commercial depression should put himself out to sign one of these calls, should cancel all other engagements and be present at the meeting, and should urge his friends to do likewise. The force of the meeting will depend largely on the numbers and the energy of expression, and if the public sentiment of Chicago is properly represented at the meeting, the Tabernacle will not be large enough to hold the people.

The gravity of the situation on the Rio Grande seems to be fully appreciated in Congress. In accordance with the usual practice, the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means yesterday moved the reference of the matter to the Committee on the President's message to various Committees—among others, that portion relating to the border difficulties to the Military Committee. An amendment was immediately offered and adopted, naming the Committee on Foreign Affairs as the committee to have charge of so important a subject. Mr. SCHREIBER, of Texas, is a member of this Committee, and will be able to look after the interests of his constituents, while it is expected that the Committee as a whole will bestow upon the question of our relations with Mexico the careful consideration which its gravity and consequences demand. The fact that the Foreign Affairs instead of the Military Committee was selected shows that the House is not disposed to adopt a policy calculated to aggravate rather than modify the existing condition of excitement and alarm.

THE FALL OF PLEVNA.
 The great blow, which all Europe has been awaiting with varied feelings for the past three months, has at last been struck, and the only stronghold of the Turks north of the Balkan Mountains has fallen into the hands of the Russians. Plevna, the beloved, the impregnable, the unconquerable, the city of the falling Ottoman Empire, was surrendered unconditionally, according to our dispatches, after a sharp assault Sunday morning. The announcement, coming as it does suddenly and without any previous intimation in the shape of renewed general fighting, is no less a surprise to those who have had continued confidence in the ultimate triumph of the Czar's warriors than to the smaller number whose delight has been the occasional successes of the only Turkish General whose career has not been a series of unmitigated defeats. It is only common fairness to assert that, aside from a few rebellious Russian provinces, the only sympathizers with the Turkish cause have been the English holders of Turkish bonds, and that class of Englishmen who can never overcome the national hatred of the Russians engendered in the Crimea. To the rest of the civilized world the news of this morning will be welcomed as another step in the march of civilization. Nearly eight months ago the Czar issued a proclamation of war against Turkey, having previously endeavored vainly to procure by arbitration a guarantee from the Sultan that the Christian provinces would be protected from misrule and persecution. An army was collected as hastily as could be possible with the meagre facilities for transportation and communication then existing in the Balkans, while another force was dispatched around the eastern shore of the Black Sea into Asia Minor. Two months were occupied in getting these troops into position, and on the 23d of June the passage of the Danube was made at Braila; the total number of available troops in Roumania at that time being about 200,000. This movement, which was only intended as a diversion, was followed on the 26th by a crossing at Simnitza. From this time forward there was a continual succession of Russian victories. Nicolopoli was captured, and an advance guard of cavalry under Gen. Gourak penetrated the Balkans and spread alarm and dismay to the gates of the capital. The old Serdar Ekser, penning himself and his army up in Schumla, allowed a Russian force to enter the city, and he fled to the coast. The Russian army, on the 26th, crossed the Balkans. The Russian army, on the 26th, crossed the Balkans. The Russian army, on the 26th, crossed the Balkans.

It was at this critical juncture that the Turks stopped, and in a moment the stillness and fear which had hitherto reigned in the young Sultan, by a great effort of his possibility, and contrary to the insidious advice of his Ministers, several of whom have since been suspected of open treachery, ordered the Serdar Ekser under arrest and MURKAT ALI at the head of the Schumla army. At the same time he issued instructions to OSMAN PASHA, who had hitherto refused to cross the frontier, to march to the aid of the Serdar Ekser. The result showed the extreme wisdom of both these orders. The Russian forces had by this time been scattered in a long desultory line from Simnitza to Gabrova, and worse than that, had grown so self-confident that they scarcely considered as foes men worthy of their steel. The Turkish soldiers who had never so much as dared to attack a foreign invasion. One corps had branched off to the eastward, and was already pressing carelessly in the direction of Schumla. Only a single division remained near the point of crossing of the Danube, and against this OSMAN PASHA flung his troops on the 19th of July, compelling them to withdraw. This was the first serious reverse sustained by the Russians, and even then the latter did not anticipate any important check; hence only a portion of the Eleventh Corps was recalled from the Danube to cope with the new enemy. Two weeks were allowed to elapse before the Russians sought an engagement, an interval long enough to allow OSMAN PASHA to thoroughly intrench himself in the hills about Plevna. The first great battle of the war took place on the 29th of July, and, to the inexpressible astonishment and disgust of the Russians, they were repulsed with immense slaughter. Again and again they stormed the heights, but were each time driven back, to learn finally the simple but stern lesson that even the Turks could fight behind intrenchments. This great disaster, in which the losses have been estimated as high as 25,000 men, caused an immediate change of Russian tactics. The headquarters were precipitately moved back to a point near the Danube, and all the regiments on the march southward were turned in the opposite direction. It was now time for the Russians to concentrate and consider.

It is not our purpose to give any detailed story of the war in this place. Sufficient to say that since that day all the action on the scene of war in Europe has been turned upon Plevna as a pivot. OSMAN PASHA has stood his ground firmly, and has successfully barred the door of Roumelia, and the Generals of the Czar have recognized the fact that Plevna must be taken. Accordingly, after several ineffectual attempts to dislodge the Turkish commander, it was determined to commence a regular siege, and Gen. TOPLAN, the venerable hero of Sebastopol, was called to take charge of the operations. Days, and weeks, and months passed, and readers of the newspapers have long since passed the stage of wondering why nothing was going on. But down in Bulgaria the net was gradually being woven about the victim. Day by day sources of supply were cut off and new positions taken up by the Russians, while all the time the ceaseless beat of shot and shell has been heard and felt by the doomed Turks. Escape was completely prevented. If MURKAT ALI or SULEYMAN PASHA had shown a little more strategy or zeal it is possible that Plevna might have been relieved or even completely captured. But, either from personal jealousy or incapacity, these Generals have kept at a safe distance. It is easy to imagine the horrors endured by the besieged. When Bayazit was relieved in July there were found men, and women, and children dying from starvation and thirst. Yet Bayazit offers no comparison to Plevna, which has now been shut out from communication with the world for over four months, supplies having been reduced to such a point that the men are now dying of starvation. To OSMAN PASHA has been accorded the highest praise as a General. He must have possessed in an extraordinary measure the affections of his men to have prevented open insubordination or treachery during the long siege. Our dispatches narrate that he made an attempt—undoubtedly the last effort of desperation—to break through the Russian lines in the direction of Widin on the west, but was attacked in front and rear, and compelled to surrender. The road to Constantinople lies open before the Grand Duke, and unless, as is not improbable, the Porte should sue for peace, he can be at Adrianople within a month. At any rate, the importance of the capture of Plevna cannot well be overestimated.

LAND-GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES.
 The regular session of Congress having opened, two or three subsidy bills have been introduced for the benefit of the Southern Pacific scheme, the lobby is presumably in full trim for the assault, and the Southern newspapers are doing what they can to spread the impression that the Southern people may claim a subsidy as a right on the ground that the North has enjoyed disproportionate advantages from the subsidies heretofore granted. A statement is going round among the Southern papers, based on a recent speech made in Congress by Mr. RIDGELY, of Tennessee, the purport of which is to show that 155,000,000 acres of public lands have been granted by the Government for railroad construction for the benefit of the Northern States, and only \$32,000,000 in the same respect for the benefit of the Southern States. It may be as well to briefly recapitulate the statement for the purpose of determining just how exact and fair it is. To begin with, the 155,000,000 acres said to have been given away to the Northern States comprises all the lands contained in the Territories as well as that located within the boundaries of Northern States. Now the Territories belong to the whole United States, and any gift, sale, or retention thereof affects the line of the Pacific railroad and Southern States. The Territories belong to the whole United States, and any gift, sale, or retention thereof affects the line of the Pacific railroad and Southern States. The Territories belong to the whole United States, and any gift, sale, or retention thereof affects the line of the Pacific railroad and Southern States.

Union, the unoccupied and uncolored lands still belonged to the Government; and Texas was treated like an independent nation, and the State acquired vast possessions, which it has since sold and given away as suited its purpose. Certainly there is as much fairness in charging the South with this gift of a kingdom in extent and value as in charging to the account of the Northern States the grant to railroads of certain Territorial lands, the residue of which became doubly valuable to the whole country by reason of such grant.

As to the grant of bonds, the Central Pacific Union Pacific, Kansas Pacific, Central Branch Union Pacific, Western Pacific, Sioux City & Pacific, constitute in fact one great central route across the continent. Some of the dependent lines reach toward the South, some toward the North, but all belong to the same system. The land-grant amounts to \$64,000,000 and something more. The scheme was projected, and carried out so far as the Government was concerned, during the War of the Rebellion. The subsidy was urged partly on the ground of military necessity, and in no case pending the War could the line have been located further to the South; even had there been no war, it is doubtful whether justice to all sections would have allowed a more southerly route for the single and central trans-continental railroad projected. But, having granted a huge subsidy for one railroad across the continent, that is rather a reason why the Government should grant no more than a reason why it should grant two or three others. All the legitimate purpose the Government could have in view was accomplished by this one grant. Had the project been carried out, it is not unlikely that it would have been withheld to await the time when private capital should be willing to undertake the work; but certainly the experience the people have had with one subsidized railroad ought to preclude a repetition thereof. If the Southern States forfeited any sectional advantages in this grant (which we doubt), it was because they were in rebellion against the Government, and the route could not safely be projected in their territory; but certainly the nation should not now be called upon to duplicate its subsidies because the South was making war upon the Government during the time the original subsidies were granted.

TWO CELEBRATED WILL CASES.
 The right of a man to arrange for the disposition of his property after death is assumed to be fundamental, but it has practically been questioned in this country, and the people begin to question whether it exists at all. Testamentary capacity is now limited by peculiar conditions in respect of bodily health, to say nothing of the rights of widow and children variously defined in different States. As it was lately assumed by an intelligent correspondent that suicide is *prima facie* evidence of insanity, so we may infer before long that the man who dies in the possession of vast wealth is presumed by law to be not in his right mind. In this manner it will be possible to account satisfactorily for the decisions which have been made recently in a number of will cases; and the practice of ripping up the private history of every wealthy man after death, on the score that he was insane, will be done his own suit when he made his will, can be justified. It is established that the man who dies in *ipse facto* crazy, it will be an easy advance to the conclusion that the poor man who with malice aforethought becomes rich is also a victim of mental aberration. The accumulation of property will thus be proved an offense against the constitution of the human mind; Communism will become a condition of national prosperity and indolence a public virtue.

The creditors of the VANDEBILT family will be not so peculiar that they would provoke much comment were it not for the conspicuous social position of the persons concerned and the vast sums of money involved. The Commodore had made a large fortune, partly by shrewd business operations, partly by good luck. He had a number of children, one of whom alone inherited his business capacity; of the others, one was dissipated and imprudent in a conspicuous degree; his daughters were married and the way of wealth was closed. The Commodore's ambition was to found a fortune, and to leave the vast interests collected by him under the dominion of one of his own name. The only way he saw to accomplish his purpose was to make his son WILLIAM his residuary legatee. Recognizing the obligation which rested upon him of providing decently for his children he left each of them sums of money, which, for any persons having modest expectations, would have been considered a fortune; and even the one of his daughters, the interest on \$200,000. Aside from the question of the will, the Commodore's ambition, there can be no doubt that, if he had the right to dispose of his property at all, he had the right to dispose of it in this manner. But no sooner was the will published than some of the heirs began to prepare for a contest. One suit was commenced, and another has since been instituted to set aside the will, and the way of wealth was closed. The Commodore's ambition was to found a fortune, and to leave the vast interests collected by him under the dominion of one of his own name. The only way he saw to accomplish his purpose was to make his son WILLIAM his residuary legatee. Recognizing the obligation which rested upon him of providing decently for his children he left each of them sums of money, which, for any persons having modest expectations, would have been considered a fortune; and even the one of his daughters, the interest on \$200,000. Aside from the question of the will, the Commodore's ambition, there can be no doubt that, if he had the right to dispose of his property at all, he had the right to dispose of it in this manner. But no sooner was the will published than some of the heirs began to prepare for a contest. One suit was commenced, and another has since been instituted to set aside the will, and the way of wealth was closed.

The great demand for gold in Europe has given it an increased value, and caused it to be largely hoarded by the great national banking institutions. Germany is buying gold, paying a large premium for it in silver; all the other States are struggling to keep their stocks of it, anticipating a still greater scarcity; and this is the time when the country is largely in debt, when gold has passed beyond all reasonable value in other property, that the Government has selected to abolish the double standard, and to issue a new coinage to make all the gold in the United States payable gold. Had silver not been demonetized in 1873, the silver coinage of the United States would have long since made the redemption of greenbacks and of bank notes in coin a matter of course instead of what it is—an impossibility in gold.

Mr. BODICHAULT may talk of the decline of the drama, but what is that compared with the decline of the ancient art of fortune-telling? There was a time when the soothsayer had what might be called a "soft touch," and latched with Kings and Princes, but he was eventually a Prince of the Church, if not raised to the priesthood, and never performed any priestly office. But he assumed the vows of chastity. In consequence of his opportunities, which were splendid as his place required, he amassed a large fortune. Dominated by the idea, which some later taste possession of every well-regulated mind should be, of founding a family, he left the bulk of his property to his brothers and sisters, but in the hands of his wife, eventually a Prince of the Church, if not raised to the priesthood, and never performed any priestly office. But he assumed the vows of chastity. In consequence of his opportunities, which were splendid as his place required, he amassed a large fortune. 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